

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 645
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/07/2022

ORGANIC AND NATURAL FARMING CERTIFICATION

645. SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which natural farming is different from organic farming in terms of standard; and
- (b) the rationale behind initiating separate certification for natural farming when organic certification already exists?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): National Standard of Organic Production (NSOP) has defined organic agriculture as “a system of farm design and management to create an ecosystem which can achieve sustainable productivity without use of artificial off farm input such as chemical fertilizer and pesticides.

Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) /Natural Farming, under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented since 2020-21 to promote traditional indigenous practices. The scheme mainly emphasizes on exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations and other plant based preparations. Under BPKP, financial assistance of Rs 12200/ha for 3 years is provided for cluster formation, capacity building and continuous handholding by trained personnel, certification and residue analysis.

Both Organic farming and Natural Farming systems are non-chemical system of farming largely relying on diversity, on farm bio mass management, rejuvenation of natural nutrient recycling, crop rotation, multiple cropping & efficient resources recycling. However, Organic Farming is open to use of off-farm purchased organic and biological inputs and need based soil correction through natural mined minerals whereas the Natural Farming System is based on bio-mass mulching, round the year green cover, indigenous cow based dung and urine formulations in exclusions of purchase inputs whether organic biological or otherwise.

(b): Though both Organic Farming and Natural Farming are non-chemical systems of farming, there is a need to develop a simple, affordable and easy to adopt certification system specific to Natural Farming in order to differentiate Natural Farming produce from organic produce.